Banning of militant groups in Jammu and Kashmir

361. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is likely to invoke the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act to ban some militant groups in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the names of these groups;

(c) by when the ban is likely to be invoked; and

(d) who are the other groups banned till date in Jammu and Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) The question of imposing ban under the Unlawful Activity (Prevention) Act, on groups indulging in unlawful activities is reviewed from time to time and decisions are taken on the basis of assessment of the situation in its entire totality. It is not feasible to indicate anything in advance of the imposition of such a ban.

(d) Earlier ban was imposed on Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, which expired on 16.02.2000. Recently, Jaish-e-Mohammad, Lashkar-e-Toiba, Hizbul-Mujahideen, Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, Al-Umar-Mujahideen and Jammu and Kashmir Islamic Front have been declared as terrorist organisations on 24.10.2001, under section 18 of the Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance, 2001 [No. 9 of 2001].